

Q. # 1940

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RESTRICTED

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"RESTRICTED" by order
of the Secretary of
War--By /s/ E. Checket,
Major, Inf.

For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department

United States of America

In the matter of collective * Perpetuation of Testimony of
punishments of Allied prison- * William Mahoney, Staff
ers of war at Camp No. 3, * Sergeant, 6137525
Fukuoka, Japan, between July *
1944 and September 1945. *

Taken at:

Headquarters First Service Command
Army Service Forces
808 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Date:

1 March 1946

In the Presence of:

Edward T. Howard, Special Agent
Security Intelligence Corps
Headquarters First Service Command

Reporter:

Vince A. Creeden, Civilian Employee
Intelligence Division
Headquarters First Service Command

Questions by:

Edward T. Howard, Special Agent
Security Intelligence Corps

The witness was duly sworn.

Q State your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address.

A [William Mahoney, Staff Sergeant, ASN 6137525, 33 Chestnut Street, Peabody, Massachusetts.]

WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Washington 25, D. C.
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RESTRICTED /s/ E. C.

REF ID: A6512
RESTRICTED /s/ E.C.

- Q When and where were you born?
- A I was born March 5, 1915 in Peabody, Massachusetts.
- Q What does your education consist of?
- A Two years of high school.
- Q What was your occupation before entering the service?
- A Leather worker.
- Q Have you recently returned from overseas?
- A Yes, I returned to the United States 1 November 1945.
- Q Were you a prisoner of war?
- A Yes, I was a prisoner of war of the Japanese.
- Q At what places were you held and state the approximate dates?
- A I was captured in Bataan 9 April 1942. I arrived at Camp O'Donnell 28 April 1942 and I arrived at Cabanatuan 30 November 1942. I was at Nichols Field from January 1943 to March 1943. I then returned to Cabanatuan in March of 1943 and remained there until 1944. From Cabanatuan [I went to Camp No. 3, Fukuoka, Japan, and remained there from July 1944 until liberated about 15 September 1945.]
- Q Are you familiar with instances of collective punishment of Allied prisoners of war at Camp No. 3, Fukuoka, Japan, between July 1944 and September 1945?
- A Yes.
- Q Will you state what you know of your own knowledge concerning such incidents?
- A Whenever there was an air raid, the prisoners were forced to go to an air raid shelter which consisted of a bamboo lean-to backed up against a bank. After

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the air raid was over, because one or two prisoners had made some noise, all of the prisoners who were in that air raid shelter were forced to stand at attention for two or three hours and were denied breakfast the following morning. If any of the prisoners were caught smoking during an air raid, they were marched around the camp a couple of times -- the men were all barefooted-and then were made to stand up all night at attention.

Q Were there any beatings of these men?

A If the Japanese caught the man who was smoking, thirty men around him would get it for not making him put it out and for not reporting it to the guard.

Q Who did the beating?

A The Japanese guards; no individual one; they were all out during an air raid.

Q Do you recall any other instances of collective punishment?

A [About July of 1944, Private Lawrence Hill was caught stealing three fish. The morning and noon meal of all prisoners in the camp were taken away. Hill was severely beaten and the men on his detail were also severely beaten.

Q Who did the beating?

A The Japanese guards who brought us in the camp. We had so many guards on a detail that I do not recall which ones did the beating. I was not on Hill's detail but we were all called out to watch while Hill was beaten by a guard whose name I do not know. The Japanese also took away our holiday for punishment. I heard from Hill that he was imprisoned in the guardhouse for two weeks for stealing the fish, during which time he was also beaten three times.

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Q Did he tell you who beat him?

A The supply corporal whose nickname was "The Mad Corporal".

Q Do you recall any other instances of collective punishment?

A An American prisoner of War, Marron (phonetic), nicknamed "Blimp" stole a Japanese shirt. All the prisoners in the barracks that he was in were required to stand up all night and the next morning and then had to go on work detail without breakfast. That night "Blimp" admitted the theft. "Blimp" was then severely beaten by the supply corporal nicknamed "The Mad Corporal". At the same time six other prisoners who were in the barracks close to "Blimp" were also severely beaten for not turning "Blimp" in. "Blimp" was also put in the guardhouse for three weeks, during which time he received just rice and salt and one glass of water a day.

Q What was "Blimp"'s condition as the result of this treatment?

A He got very thin due to malnutrition.

Q Was he beaten during this time?

A Yes, but I do not know how many times.

Q How much of "Blimp's" beatings did you witness and what part did you hear from somebody else?

A Just the one beating I saw. The rest of the time while he was in the guardhouse was hearsay from fellow prisoners who were in the guardhouse with him.

Q Do you recall any other instances of collective punishment?

A No, not offhand.

Q Who was the commanding officer of Camp No. 3, Fukuoka?

A Major Rikotaki (phonetic).

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Q Will you describe or otherwise identify Major Rikotaki (phonetic)?

A Major Rikotaki (phonetic), nicknamed by the prisoners of war "The Nut", was 55 to 60 years old; had very close-cropped black hair; about 5'5" tall; weighed about 160 pounds; stocky build; he strutted when he walked; he wore no glasses.

Q Did he witness or know about these collective punishments?

A Yes. He sanctioned them. He was always present at the collective punishments. I saw him there. It was the individual punishments that I don't know whether he sanctioned or not.

Q Was any protest made as the result of these collective punishments?

A Sometimes they were and sometimes they weren't. On the fish incident they couldn't protest. There was no reason to protest particularly. In the other cases, Mr. Hussey, Chief Pharmacist Mate, our camp interpreter, made the protests.

Q What was the result of the protests?

A Nothing was ever done about them.

Q Do you have anything else you wish to state about these collective punishments?

A No.

/s/ William C. Mahoney
William Mahoney, S Sgt, USA

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RESTRICTED /s/ E.C.

RESTRICTED /s/ E.C.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Suffolk } SS

I, William Mahoney, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ William C. Mahoney
William Mahoney, S Sgt, USA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of March 1946.

/s/ John P. McNamara
(Notary-Public)
Summary Court
JOHN P. MCNAMARA
Major, C.M.P.

My commission expires:

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Edward T. Howard, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, certify that William Mahoney, Staff Sergeant, ASN 6137525, personally appeared before me on 1 March 1946 and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

Place: Boston, Mass.

/s/ Edward T. Howard

Date: 12 March 1946

Special Agent, SIC
First Service Command

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

/s/ Edwin F. Svero
EDWIN F. SVERO
1st Lt., Inf.

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RESTRICTED /s/ E.C.

No. 1.

Doc 8078

Ex. 1940-1

六三十五五號。于生吉田市下木下町一號。備地。

問 爵へ傳廢行多外。

答 公、私日本人人、傳廢行多。私日本福岡人之傳
廢行多行多。昭和十九年八月廿九日
一九四五年昭和二十年九月十五日頃放免也。此
某處二層之房。

空襲來下此時、仰臥丁モ傳廢行多二手三竹、屋根
ヶ屋根下造ツアリク空襲避難所ニ強制的に行
々々ハナリセテ少々。一人か三人、傳廢行多が隣イダム
云フ。テ空襲が終ツテ入其避難所ニ居タ傳廢
八全部二時向八三時向強制的行多セラタ
上、其、翌朝八朝食ヲ禁セラタ事無し。空襲中
傳廢行多證喫煙タ事無カタノタ場合、
彼等ハ全部跣足ノ容所、周囲
ヲ二回行進セラタ。ソレカタ御金食道主ヲ
命セラタ。

一九四四年八月廿九日
八三尾危急處了捕人多。收容所ニ
准々傳廢全部、朝食及口糧一食取上ケル

No. 2

Doc. 8078*

問 どき 二八〇〇年九月八日 便 附 俘虜運送

問 誰が設立したか。

答 欧洲河川社運送連合会日本総代理事會。

問 貴会は其の以外二葉同懲罰、倒立船を輸出せり。

答 フリート／小型航行船／の綽名、乗員専用船と
（音戸）が果た、やはり一般の運送より、銀行居り集
合の中、凡て、俘虜の其、夜中及翌朝直通して
居テ六六十で、朝食抜き作業隊
、仕事三出勤六六十で、其、往々
大型航行船へ輸送する事多。小型航行船
、ヨコノ島連に係長、幹部、外給手掛係長
、クルードック等、弁ひ多。小型航行船ヲ引揚
、多く云う理由、乗組、小型航行船近接
、居た、他、夫人、俘虜毛派同時二ドック等
、人手多、小型航行船八隻、一二週間營業
二人、うち多が、其、向假八日至少上陸、一旦
付、一艇、水、舟、船、退却也。多く
、取扱、結果、小型航行船、狀態如何

答 很、弊艦、不貳、並非常之運送多。

問 福岡第三俘虜收容所、所長は誰、多少
答 ヨタキ（音戸）少佐。

No. 3

Doc 8078 *

問 評議會之等、其同懲罰不目擊者有至大半ノ居テ
ナカ。

答 今、彼ハソシヲ承認シテ居テア。彼ハ常主未同
懲罰、規場ニ出席シテ居タム。
私ヒニコテ被リ見ニシカ。

問 案等、
答 ノミ議、結果ハ如何トシカ。
ソセラリイヲハ未だ力テ、併モ處置サセセム。